The Builder.

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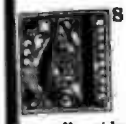

S we have already said, a very successful meeting has been held by the British Archæological Association in Derby, and the greatest hospitality was shown on all sides. Complimentary breakfasts, luncheons, and dinners, followed each other in quick succession; and, better still, the kindly expressions, representatives of feelings to which these sacrifices to our grosser natures lead. And here let us give one word of advice to hospitable individuals who may feel disposed, on future occasions, to open their houses when peripatetic archæologists visit their quarter. *Receive the whole party or none at all.* When half are admitted and half sent away, you pain the latter moiety a vast deal more than you please the first. We are not aware that any illustration occurred during the meeting of the Association at Derby, but there certainly was one at the late meeting of the Institute. The Dean of Wells provided an entertainment for a certain number of the members, and commissioned the singularly unfitted gentleman (the Rev. Mr. Hill), who manages the excursions,—that is, takes care that every body has the means of conveyance afforded him at a cost about 50 *per cent.* greater than he could have obtained it for himself,—to invite the *right* persons to partake of it. The result of this, and of the same arrangement on other occasions, changing the name of the host, of course, was, that all those who had to pay a certain number of shillings for a miserable satisfying of nature's claims at one of the worst-conducted ordinaries that ever was laid out, thought themselves very ill-used by the Dean, their *amour-propre* being touched. Again, therefore, we say to the hospitably inclined, receive the whole party or none at all.

And now, then, to note such portions of the proceedings in Derby and its neighbourhood as may be either pleasant or profitable to our readers.

The President, Sir Oswald Mosley, in the course of his *inaugural address*, said, — It appears to have been the design of Providence that some of the records of past empires, which once exercised almost universal sway over the earth, should be entombed, as it were, until a period when the revelation of them could be duly appreciated by learned and highly civilised inquirers, by whom the application of such discoveries could be brought forward to prove the veracity of prophetical history, and by analogy to confirm the truths of Holy Writ. Sure I am, that if such inquiries be pursued in a proper frame of mind, the more we discover the firmer will these truths be established. Had not mounds of rubbish concealed from view the sculptured treasures of ancient Nineveh, the Arab spoiler, in his mistaken zeal, would have long since demolished them. No Layard would have been required to direct, with master mind, their excavation; no Richardson to interpret a language, the very characters of which had for ages been forgotten: until such men as Belzoni, Champollion, and Sir Gardiner Wilkinson had been born in the world, the Egyptian tombs would have been reopened in vain; the religious and domestic habits of one of the most celebrated nations of antiquity, which are still portrayed in such vivid colouring on the walls of their temples and sepulchres, would have had no chroniclers. Devoutly is it to be wished, that the efforts now making by men of science, to put us in possession of these antique treasures, may meet with better encouragement from the Government of this great nation. Will it be credited by the historians of a future age, that the magnificent monument of Egyptian art, familiarly known by the name of Cleopatra's Needle, after having been won by the valour of our brave troops under Abercromby, and subsequently given by Mehemet Ali Pasha to our King George the Fourth, should have been suffered to lie prostrate on the sands of Alexandria for nearly half a century, for fear of the expenditure of a few thousand pounds in its removal. The scientific world are under great obligations to Mr. Gould, a member of this association, for having brought this matter before the public (in THE BUILDER), and for having urged the Government to pursue a more liberal conduct with regard to it. We must all, I am sure, unite in wishing that his meritorious efforts may ultimately be crowned with success. How wonderfully is it ordained, that the care bestowed upon the burial of the dead should throw light upon the manners and customs of the living! Yet such is the case, both among the barbarous and civilised nations of antiquity. With regard to the original inhabitants of Britain, the page of history, as I have before observed, furnishes us with very slight information; but upon opening their tombs we find ample proofs of their ignorance and superstitions: the rude simplicity of their manners is there developed, and we begin to trace a gradual approximation to a more refined state by an examination of the different contents of the most ancient and more recent barrows. For most interesting investigations of this kind, we are under great obligations to Mr. Bateman, another of our members, who has spared neither labour nor expense in excavating many of these tumuli in the northern parts of this and the adjoining county of Stafford; the results of which he has published, under the title of "Vestiges of the Antiquities of Derbyshire."

Mr. Pettigrew, in the course of some remarks *On the Study of Archæology*, with which he followed the President, said,— Curiosity alone is no longer the object of the antiquary, who is now engaged in the higher occupation of tracing the habits and manners of tribes and nations long removed. Particular spots are hallowed as those in which religion has been first promulgated,—as the site on which beneficent laws have been originated,—or the scenes on which the fate of nations has been decided,—or where have arisen those events which have given a colour to our domestic scenes and awakened our kindliest feelings. A study of the memorials of such scenes, events, or emotions, enables us to trace, through the condition of their arts, the customs and manners of nations which have long ceased to exist. In tracing these conditions we are much aided by the forms of language as well as by the more tangible remains of by-gone people. The architectural remains of cultivated nations are also of the highest interest, and will generally be found corresponding in some degree with the language of the people by whom they were executed. The architecture of the Dorians is, like their language, secure and expressive, — of the Ionians graceful and flowing, — of the Corinthians rich and luxurious. In the first, it was remarkable for power and solidity,—among the Corinthians it was characterised by delicacy,—and in the hands of the Ionians it exhibited that grace and power of style which characterise the writings of the Great Poet, and his imitators. The study of antiquities is ennobling in another way, by removing the contemplation from the petty and evanescent things of the day, and concentrating it upon the mighty achievements of those people by whom the great steps of civilization have been accomplished.

On Tuesday, in the midst of many visits, the Rev. Mr. Errington read a paper on

SOUTH WINFIELD MANOR HOUSE,

which was erected by Lord Cromwell, treasurer to Henry VI., and is noted for its connection with the detention of Mary, Queen of Scots. The Lord Shrewsbury, who had the care of her here, must have had a nice time of it, through the jealousy of his wife and the suspicions of his queen.

"The carriage approach winds up the steep eastern slope of the hill, and is shaded by venerable elm, yew, and ash trees, and brings you at length to the gate-house, which has a central and a side archway, the latter being for foot passengers only, and abutting on to the porter's lodge. This gate-house is about 16 feet through, having corresponding arches on the western face. A large lateral arch opens from the footway to enable the gate-keeper stepping across to communicate with the horse and carriage passage. This arch is semi-circular; the others being obtuse pointed, except the main eastern one which, from the dropping of the key-stone and from repair, has now a semi-circular appearance. Part of the upper stage and side turrets, the roof, and battlements, are gone: there is no trace of a portcullis. Like the rest of the structure, it is built of fine hard stone, which exhibits few marks of corrosion. No date is to be found on any of the buildings. Having passed through the inner arch, you come into the first or outer court. On the left is a large portion of the manor barn: towards the right, eastwards, are remains of the stables, offices, and retainers' quarters. It was in these stables that Colonel Dalby was shot, through a hole from the porter's lodge. The barn is well buttressed, and within still exhibits some fine square oak uprights supporting the roof. This outer court is nearly square, but the walls and buildings to the south and south-west are gone. There may have been a postern at the south-west corner. To the south,—the only side on which the ground does not fall,—just beyond the present stack-yards, are extensive remains of a bastion and other defensive earthworks. In the middle of the court is the well, said to have been sunk during the last siege, the water supply having been previously brought from the hills to the west. The north side of the court presents an interesting façade, which is rendered very picturesque by the tall angular chimney-shafts capped with battlemented cornices, and the bold and lofty tower which occupies the western extremity.

In the centre is a double gateway, somewhat similar to the first, leading into the second court. Above the main arch and occupying the centre is a broad projecting label returned at the ends and charged with small shields, and encompassing four escutcheons on sunk panels: on one of them are expressed pouches or purses, the emblems of Cromwell, Lord Treasurer. The side turrets are remarkable:

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